

A.C. 4451(8) SHIFNAL

SHIFNAL

RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual

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Annual Report

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OF THE

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Medical Officer of

Health

Form

For 1938.



Shifnal

Rural Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your District for the year 1938.

The Birth Rate has improved on that for 1937, and is above the average for the country, while the Infantile Mortality Rate, which reached a very low level in 1937, has unfortunately doubled itself in the year. The Death Rate approximates very closely to that for the Country.

Reference to particular Public Health matters will be found in the appropriate section of the Report.

It was with great pleasure I noted the first attendance of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Hodgkiss, on duty after an illness of several months, and I take this opportunity of thanking him for his willing co-operation in the year. During his absence the Sanitary Work of the district has been carried out by Mr. Roberts, and thanks are due to him for collecting the material for this Report of the Sanitary Inspection of the area.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. A. M. STEWART,

30th June, 1939.

M.B. L.R.C.P. D.P.H.

Sanitary Officers.

W. A. M. STEWART

Medical Officer of Health

S. HODGKISS

Sanitary Inspector, Water Inspector
and Sewage Foreman.

Section A. **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area (in acres)	...	...	39,659
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population Mid 1938	...	...	7,659
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	...	...	2,188
Rateable value	...	...	£38,978
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	£165-7-0
Number of persons per acre calculated on the population	...	...	.19

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

With the growth of a military town at Cosford, considerable changes have taken place in the district. What was a very rural area now teems with young adult life, and although War Office restrictions prevail, yet there is considerable interchange between civilian and soldier. With the considerable Housing Scheme being carried out at Albrighton, the life of the worker should benefit. The changes which were contemplated in the Shifnal Town, and which were referred to in the Report for 1937, are being put into effect; new houses are being built at the Newport end of the town, and a high standard of convenience is being aimed at to satisfy the future tenants.

With the varying enterprises being carried out, work is plentiful and unemployment figures have improved.

Vital Statistics.

		M.	F.	Totals	
Live Births:	Legitimate	76	70	146	} Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 19.8
	Illegitimate	4	2	6	
				<hr/> 152	
Still Births :	Legitimate	3	0	3	} Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 19.4
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	
				<hr/> 3	
Deaths		52	56	108	

Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population 14.1.

Deaths from puerperal causes : 0.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—	M.	F.
All Infants per 1000 live births	59.0	5 4
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	61.6	5 4
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	0	0

Deaths from Cancer, all ages	...	...	18
„ Measles, all ages	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	0
„ Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	...	...	0

POPULATION —The estimated Mid-Year population shows an increase of 86 on the calculated population for 1937.

BIRTHS.—Number of Births 1936	...	113	Rate 15.1
„ „ 1937	...	133	„ 17.5
„ „ 1938	...	152	„ 19.8
England and Wales			„ 15.1



DEATHS.—The number of deaths was 108 (M. 52, F. 56) compared with 89 in 1937 and 101 in 1936.

The crude death rate 14.1, after considering the areal comparability factor 0.84 (supplied by the Registrar-General) gives an adjusted death rate of 11.8. Death Rate for 1937 9.8, 1936 11.3, Death Rate for England and Wales 11.6.

The principal causes of death were :—

Nephritis	...	...	...	5
Congenital Debility and Prematurity	...	...	...	6
Violence (other than Suicide)	...	...	...	2
Diabetes	...	...	...	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	7
Heart Disease	...	...	...	29
Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	10
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5
Pneumonia	...	...	...	5
Other causes (excluding infective conditions)	...	...	...	9

Deaths from Infective conditions :—

Influenza	...	...	...	5
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	...	...	...	4
G.P.I	...	...	...	1
Cancer	...	...	...	18

No remarkable deviations from normal are to be noticed in assigning the total deaths to their groupings, the rise in the total being fairly evenly spread over various illnesses. Heat and circulatory diseases still account for the greatest individual amounts.

There were no deaths from the common infective conditions.

Death rates for Tuberculosis (Phthisis) and Cancer
per 1000 population

1937	.13	1.8
1938	.52	2.3

Infantile Mortality rate :—

	1937	...	30	per 1000 live births
	1938	...	59	
England and Wales	1938	...	63	

This rate is higher than it has been since 1935.

Causes of death in Infants under 1 year were :—

Prematurity	...	...	...	2
Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	2
Heart Disease	...	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	...	...	1
Melaena	...	...	...	1

Section B. **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

1—Public Health Officers (see first page).

2—(a) Laboratory facilities: Swabs and other diagnostic procedures are dealt with by the University Laboratory, Birmingham, where bacteriological and pathological examinations are made. Analyses of water are carried through by the Harper Adams College, Newport, and in certain cases by the Public Analyst.

(b) A newly acquired modern ambulance is available for the use of non-infectious cases, while infected cases are removed to Hospital by the Monkmoor Hospital's own conveyance.

(c) A district nurse is available for Midwifery and home visiting.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics: The County Council have available their usual services in the district, and visiting and attention is given by the local health visitors.

(e) Hospitals: The local Hospital, which is under construction, is now nearing completion. After the opening, which is expected to take place at the end of July, there will be available an up-to-date establishment of a very high standard. Consideration of the patient has been the guiding principle, and the result will be that Shifnal will have in its town an Hospital of an excellence not usually found in a rural area.

Section C. **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

1—WATER SUPPLY. During the year a Ministry of Health Enquiry was held, to consider the extension of the existing Water Scheme to the Tong and Stirchley areas. As a result of the enquiry the work is expected to start shortly, and the above mentioned districts should benefit greatly from the improved conditions.

Owing to surface contamination, the spring supply at Beckbury has had to be protected, and steps have been taken to prevent gravitation of water into the chamber when the supply is collected.

The principal supplies in the district are analysed regularly with satisfactory results generally, and where, as in the case at Beckbury, attention was required, this has been given.

2—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The two principal Sewerage Schemes in the district, at Albrighton and Shifnal, have been under the consideration of the Council for improvements and extension. In the case of the former, the sprinklers have had to receive attention and new media supplied. The whole plant for Albrighton has had to undergo considerable reconstruction to meet the needs of this rapidly expanding district.

The Shifnal Disposal works have experienced difficulty with the drainage from the filter beds. This is being taken in hand by the Consulting Engineer, and improvements are to be expected.

The following is an Account furnished by the Surveyor of Sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1938, in the Shifnal Rural Sanitary District.

Certificates issued for water supply to new houses	...	No record
Houses connected to public water supply	...	105
Houses connected to public sewerage	...	32
Lengths of new sewers laid	...	120 yds. 9 inches

1—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. No records available.

2—PUBLIC CLEANSING. Regular collections are made in the Albrighton and Shifnal districts, and refuse is deposited in suitable dumps. The use of sanitary dustbins is being advocated.

3—SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

The following is an Account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1938, in the Shifnal Rural Sanitary District.

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey ... 133

Number of legal notices sent ... 1
 Number of informal notices sent ... 17
 Number of letters written ... not recorded

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices :—

<i>a</i>	Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	15
<i>b</i>	Deficient or objectionable water supply	...	1
<i>c</i>	New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	...	27
<i>d</i>	New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	...	30
<i>e</i>	Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	...	25
<i>f</i>	Offensive accumulations of all kinds	...	5
<i>g</i>	Unsuitable refuse receptacles replaced with regulation dust-bins	...	0

<i>h</i>	Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	1
<i>i</i>	Water courses, ditches, ponds and gutters foul or choked or silted up	...	...	...	...	3
<i>j</i>	Nuisances arising from tents, vans, sheds or similar structures used for human habitation	...	...	...	...	1
	Houses disinfected after infectious Disease (other than phthisis)					15
	Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	...	...	...	...	1
	Privies converted to water closets	...	...	...	...	11

4—SCHOOLS. No Schools have been closed for infectious diseases in the year.

5—CAMPING SITES. No licences are issued for camping in the district. Several cases have been brought to notice of persons of the gipsy type settling for a time in the district, and on inspection, these have been found to be kept generally, in a clean and hygienic condition.

6—SMOKE ABATEMENT. In the only complaint brought to notice, it was agreed at the meeting with the proprietor, that steps should be taken which should do much to eliminate the nuisance.

7—No Swimming Baths in district (open to public).

8—ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. Where necessary, local fumigation has been used as a disinfectant, Cimex being used, but Hydrocyanic Acid Gas (to be used by contraction) is recommended in Council houses.

Section D.

Housing.

As stated at the commencement of this Report, the Sanitary Inspector has been incapacitated, and has been unable to take part in the control of his district for several months. In consequence of this, the Housing Statistics have suffered in accuracy, and any figures given are approximate.

As a result of a meeting at the Ministry of Health in January, 1938, a Housing Inspector was appointed. Associated with this Officer, a complete survey of the district has been made for Housing. As a result, a Clearance Scheme consisting of seventeen clearance areas comprising over a hundred houses has been prepared, and orders made thereon. In addition, all defective houses in the area are listed, and are to be dealt with immediately by individual demolition or by reconditioning and repair.

It will thus be seen that in spite of the local difficulty of organisation as being presently experienced, a very adequate sense of the Housing position is in being, and improvements should be able to be carried through immediately with the minimum of difficulty.

1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

1.	a	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	... 250
	b	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	... 770
2.	a	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-32	... 0
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	22
4.		Number of dwelling-houses, exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head, found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... 149

2—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	21
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3—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

a		Proceedings under sections 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... 45
	2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
		a—by owners	... 0
		b—by Local Authority in default of owners	... 0
b		Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... 17
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
		a—by owners	... 0
		b—by Local Authority in default of owners	... 0
c		Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... 0
	2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... 0
d		Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	... 0

4—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

a	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	56
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	... 65
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	... 266
b		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... 3
c	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	9
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	... 42
		Plans for new houses passed	... 89

Section E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on register	...	121
Number of premises—cowsheds	...	Not known
dairies	...	...
milkshops	...	...
Number of above cowkeepers and milksellers who hold licenses under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in respect of :—		
<i>a</i> —Establishment of producers and bottlers—Tuberculin		
Tested	...	3
Accredited	...	53
<i>b</i> —Establishments of producers only, Tuberculin Tested		
Accredited	...	50
<i>c</i> —Establishment of bottlers only, Tuberculin Tested		
Accredited	...	3
<i>d</i> —Shops or other establishments not being the establishment at which the milk is produced or bottled		
...	1 Milk Bar	...
Number of Inspections	...	102
Defects found 1—in cowsheds		
<i>a</i> —floor and cubic space	...	0
<i>b</i> —ventilation	...	38
<i>c</i> —lighting	...	38
<i>d</i> —structure of floor	...	38
<i>e</i> —drainage	...	18
<i>f</i> —cleanliness	...	3
2—in surrounding of cowsheds	...	5
3—in sanitary condition of drains	...	18
Number of notices—verbal and written	...	38
Number of these notices complied with	...	38

b MEAT INSPECTION.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	426	65	1578	2222
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned—Small quantity of offal.				
Tuberculosis only—Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned—222 Pigs.				
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis—approx. 10 per cent.				

1.—Number of Slaughter Houses in district—7.

2.—Number of persons Licensed to stun and slaughter animals in slaughter houses and knackers' yards ... 12

Section F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases in the district showed considerable increase on previous years. The disease generally was of a mild type, was widely scattered, and gave rise to no deaths. The presence of young adults in military training, associated with the interchange between civilian and camp life, has necessitated closer supervision in the control of Scarlet Fever. In recent cases, the closure of Camp premises to civilians, with the partial segregation thus obtained, has helped to control spread.

Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1938.

Disease	Total Cases 1938	Notified 1937	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	21	4	14	0
Diphtheria ...	3	2	2	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	10	5	0	0
Erysipelas ...	3	1	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	1	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0	0

Age Incidence ;—

Years	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas
1—2	0	1	0	0	0
2—3	1	0	1	0	0
4—5	2	1	0	0	0
5—10	11	0	2	0	0
10—15	5	0	0	0	0
15—20	1	1	0	0	0
20—35	0	0	3	2	1
35—45	1	0	0	0	1
45—65	0	0	3	0	1
over 65	0	0	1	0	0

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.—The use of T.A.M. prophylactic has been in operation for the past two years. Figures of individual cases of school children treated are not available.

Tuberculosis.

Age period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1—5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0
15—25	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
25—35	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
35—45	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
45—55	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	1	5	1	2	2	2	0	0

Number of cases remaining on Register at end of year :—

Year	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1937	13	17	13	19	62
1938	12	19	14	21	66

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

1—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health,
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with Mechanical power	22	0	0
Factories without Mechanical power	17	0	0
Other premises under the Act	2	0	0
	<hr/> 41 <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>

2—Defects found—

Particulars	Defects found	Defects remedied	H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Unsuitable or defective	0	0	0	0
	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>



